

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00134 01 OF 02 162055Z

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5371

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0134

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PAGE 02 USUN N 00134 01 OF 02 162055Z

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, SG
SUBJECT: "WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS" GROUP AT THE 30TH UNGA

REF: USUN 6963

1. SUMMARY:

DURING THE 30TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA), THE 22-MEMBER "WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS" GROUP (WEOG) WAS MARKED IN PARTICULAR BY INCREASING COHESION WITHIN ITS KEY EC-9 COMPONENT. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, SERIOUS INSTANCES OF LACK OF EC-9 AND NATO SOLIDARITY ON KEY ISSUES AND SUPPORT FOR U.S. AND NATO INTERESTS WAS NOTABLY DEFICIENT.

USUN ATTENDED WEOG AMBASSADORIAL- LEVEL MEETINGS AS AN OBSERVER AND WEOG LOWER-LEVEL MEETINGS AS A PARTICIPANT. ADDITIONALLY, USUN PARTICIPATED AT AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL IN VINCI GROUP MEETINGS (WEOG PLUS U.S. AND JAPAN). ACTIVE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE WEOG CONTINUES TO BE WEL-COME BY THE GREAT MAJORITY OF WEOG MEMBERS. WITHIN THE WEOG, THERE HAS BEEN A FIRING OF POSITION AGAINST LEFTIST TACKS BY WEOG MEMBERS SUCH AS SWEDEN OR MALTA. GIVEN THE ROLE AT THE UN OF THE WEOG AS A PRINCIPAL FONT OF SUPPORT FOR WESTERN DEMOCRATIC POSITIONS, IT BEHOOVES US TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP PARTICULARLY CLOSE TIES AND COORDINATION WITH THIS GROUP.
END SUMNRY.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE WEOG:

THE WEOG IN THE UN CONTEXT COMPRISES ALL THE NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE (INCLUDING MALTA, BUT NOT CYPRUS) PLUS AUSTRALIA, CANADA, AND NEW ZEALAND (22 COUNTRIES IN ALL). AT AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL WEOG MEETINGS, THE U.S. PARTICIPATES AS AN OBSERVERS AS DO SWITZERLAND AND THE HOLY SEE. AT WORKING-LEVEL WEOG MEETINGS (I.E., UNGA COMMITTEE-LEVEL MEETINGS), THE U.S. PARTICIPATES AS A FULL MEMBER. ADDITIONALLY, USUN AT AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL PARTICIPATES IN VINCI GROUP (REFTEL) MEETINGS (WEOG PLUS U.S. AND JAPAN). THE EC-9 ACTS AS A CORE WITHIN THE WEOG ON MOST CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00134 01 OF 02 162055Z

IMPORTANT ISSUES. OTHER WEOG MEMBERS ARE INFLUENCED BY EC-9 POSITIONS (AS IS THE WEOG BY U.S. POSITIONS). HOWEVER, THIS INFLUENCE VARIES FROM ZERO IN THE CASE OF MALTA TO MUCH IN THE CASE OF CANADA, WHICH ON MOST ISSUES PARALLELS THE EC-9. THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND AUSTRIA SOMETIMES LINE UP WITH THE EC-9. AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAVE OFTEN SIDED WITH THE NON-ALIGNED, BUT SO HAVE THE STRONGLY SUPPORTED WESTERN POSTIONS. JAPAN, ALTHOUGH NOT A WEOG MEMBER,

PARTICIPATES IN THE VINCI GROUP AND OFTEN IDENTIFIES ITSELF WITH WEO AND EC-9 POSITIONS IN BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AREAS. FINALLY SPAIN, PORTUGAL, GREECE, AND TURKEY ARE INDIVIDUAL CASES. AS DISCUSSED IN REFTTEL, THERE IS NO PURELY NATO CAUCUS IN NEW YORK. HOWEVER, THE WEOG AND THE VINCI GROUP PROVIDE FOR MEETINGS OF ALL NATO MEMBERS ALBEIR IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS.

3. EC-9 AND NATO PERFORMANCE:

(A) EC-9 AND OFTEN FURSTRATING AND DISAPPOINTING 30TH UNGA, EC-9 COHESIVENESS AND GENERAL ALIGNMENT WITH U.S. POSITIONS WAS ENCOURAGING. THE EC-9 ARE PROUD OF THEIR INCREASING COHESIVENESS AND SAY SO IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC. THEY HAVE POINTED OUT THAT AT THE 27TH UNGA (1972) THEY VOTED IN PLENARY AS A BLOC ON 67 PERCENT OF THE ISSUES WHILE AT THE 30TH SESSION THE PERCENTAGE ROSE TO 84 PERCENT. AT THE 30TH UNGA, ITALY AS EC-9 PRESIDENT, DELIEVERED COMMON STATEMENTS OF POSITION FOR THE EC-9, INCLUDING SEVEN IN PLENARY. AT THE 30TH UNGA THERE WAS, NEVERTHELESS, DIVERGENCE AMONST THE EC-9 ON 34, SOMETIMES KEY, RESOLUTIONS. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, FEW CASES WHERE ONE OR MORE OF THE EC-9 VOTED "NO" OR "YES" WHEN THE MAJORITY VOTED THE OTHER WAY. DIVERGENCE WAS MOST OFTEN REFLECTED BY ABSTANTIONS. ON KOREA AND "ZIONISM," THE EC-9 WERE WITH US FOURSQUARE, BUT ON PALESTINE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND GUAM THEY SPLIT. FRANCE, DENMARK, IRELAND AND THE NETHERLANDS MOST OFTEN VOTED DIFFERENTLY THAN THE MAJORITY OF THE EC-9. USUN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC-9 ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE US, WHILE NORMALLY CONDUCTED IN THE BROADER WEOG CONTEXT, WERE HELPFUL IN OUR LOBBYING EFFORTS. UNDER ITALY'S ENERGETIC EC-9 LEADERSHIP, THERE EMERGED A STRONGER SENSE OF WESTERN DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY THAN IN RECENT YEARS. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT, AS THE EC-9

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PAGE 04 USUN N 00134 01 OF 02 162055Z

DEVELOP COHESION OF VIEWS, THEY GAIN COURAGE AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS TEND TO BE LESS LIKELY TO TAKE MAVERICK POSITIONS IN THE UN.

(B) NATO

MOST REGRETABLY ON THE GUAM RESOLUTION ELEVEN NATO MEMBERS (BELGIUM, CANADA, DEMARK, FRANCE, GREECE, ICELAND, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PORTUGAL AND TURKEY) ABSTAINED RATHER THAN JOIN FRG, LUXEMBOURG, THE UK AND THE US IN VOTING AGAINST IT. LACK OF NATO SOLIDARITY WAS ALSO STRIKING ON THE BASKET RESOLUTION ON DECOLONIZATION AND ON THE RESOLUTION ON DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION. NATO VOTES ON THE FIRST WERE: IN FAVOR (8) - CANADA, DENMARK, GREECE, ICELAND, ITALY, NORWAY, PORTUGAL AND TURKEY; AGAINST (1) - US; ABSTAIN (6) - BELGIUM, FRANCE, FRG, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS

AND THE UK. NATO VOTES ON THE SECOND WERE: IN FAVOR (13) -
BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, FRP, GREECE, ICELAND, ITALY,
LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, TURKEY AND THE UK;
AGAINST (1) - US; ABSTAIN (1) FRANCE. THE SPECTACLE OF NATO
IN DISARRAY ON THESE RESOLUTIONS WAS DEPLORABLE, PARTICULARLY
SINCE THE BASKET RESOLUTION ON DECOLONIZATION ENDORSED A REPORT
FEATURING, FOR INSTANCE, GROSSLY FALSE ALLEGATION OF NATO SUPPORT
FOR RHODESIA AND THE RESOLUTION ON DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
ON DECLONIZATION CALLED FOR ACTION WHICH WOULD RESULT IN BROAD
DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH A FABRICATION. MORE POSITIVELY, HOWEVER
NATO VOTES ON THE "ZIONISM" RESOLUTION WERE: IN FAVOR (2) -
PORTUGAL AND TURKEY; AGAINST (12) - BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK,
FRG, ICELAND, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, UK, US;
ABSTAIN (1) GREECE.

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00134 02 OF 02 162054Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 0134
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 00134 02 OF 02 162054Z

4 OTHER ASPECTS OF WEOG PERFORMANCE:

THE DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED IN THE WEOG
COMBINE A WIDE VARIETY OF NATIONAL INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS.
THEREFORE, A FEW COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL WEO COUNTRIES AND
GROUPINGS SEEM APPROPRIATE:

A. FRANCE:

EVEN MORE THAN LAST YEAR AS THE FRENCH POSITION
BECAME MORE HARMONIOUS UNDER GISCARD D'ESTAING, THE FRENCH
LINED UP MORE EASILY WITHIN THE EC-9 COMMUNITY AND SEEMED
MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE IN DEALING WITH US POSITIONS. FOR
INSTANCE, FRANCE WITH ITS AMENDMENTS, GAVE US STRONG SUPPORT
ON KOREA AND WAS CRUCIAL IN MAINTAINING AND DEVELOPING
SUPPORT FOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. ALL THE SAME, FOR
INSTANCE, ON SOME DISARMAMENT AREAS AND ON THE RACIAL DIS-
CRIMINATION RESOLUTIONS, FRANCE VOTED INDEPENDENTLY OF EC-9
AND US. POSITIONS. USUN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCE'S
MISSION REMAINS EXCELLENT.

B. MALTA:

ON EVERY UN ISSUE OF INTEREST TO THE US., MALTA
SIDED WITH THE NON-ALIGNED OR THIRD-WORLD VIEW. MALTA'S
CONTINUED THIRD-WORLD POSITION GAVE HEARTBURN TO MANY
WEOG AND EC-9 MEMBERS. SOME (E.G. THE FRG AND THE
NETHERLANDS) SUGGESTED INFORMALLY WITHIN THE EC-9 THAT
THE TIME MAY HAVE COME TO EXPEL MALTA FROM THE WEOG.

C. AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND:

WITH NEW CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENTS JUST INSTALLED,
THESE TWO ACTIVE WEOG MEMBERS MAY BECOME LESS INCLINED TO

SIDE WITH THE NONALIGNED AND MAY RETURN MORE TO THE INNER FOLD OF WEO THINKING. NEVERTHELESS, AT THE 30TH UNGA AUSTRALIA GAVE US OUTSTANDING SUPPORT ON PUERTO RICO AND NEW ZEALAND ON KOREA.

D. THE NORDIC GROUP:

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00134 02 OF 02 162054Z

DURING THE 30TH UNGA, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DIVINE NORDIC SOLIDARITY ON MANY ISSUES. FINLAND ABSTAINED ON THE KOREAN RESOLUTION, VOTED AGAINST US ON GUAM AND THE NORDICS SPLIT ON PALESTINE. ON ZIONISM AS A FORM OF RACISM, ALL THE NORDICS VOTED AGAINST THE RESOLUTION. AMONGST THE NORDICS, SWEDEN AND FINLAND TEND TO TAKE THE MORE DIVERGENT VIEWS. SWEDEN'S ACTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN PARTING COMPANY WITH WITH WESTERN MEMBERS TO VOTE UNDER A PRESTIGE-ACCURING FORMULA TO INVITE THE PLO TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL TABLE PROBABLY STRUCK THE NADIR.

E. GREECE AND TURKEY:

GREECE AND TURKEY ARE PREOCCUPIED BY CYPRUS AND THEIR VOTING POSITIONS ON OTHER ISSUES USUALLY REFLECT THEIR QUESTS FOR SUPPORT ON CYPRUS RESOLUTIONS.

5. FUTURE US-WEOG COOPERATION AT UN:

(A) WHILE AT WEOG AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL MEETINGS WE PRESERVE OUR UNIQUE SPECIAL STATUS OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE REGIONAL GRUPS AND ATTEND AS OBSERVERS, ACTIVE US. PARTICIPATION IN THE WEOG CONTINUES TO BE WELCOME BY A GREAT MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS. DURING THE 30TH UNGA, WE ATTENDED ALL AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL MEETINGS AND WERE CONSULTED INFORMALLY ON ALL ISSUES. IN THE CASE OF SELECTION OF THE WEOG CANDIDATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ELECTION, WE PARTICIPATED AT AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL IN A SECRET STRAW-BALLOT TO HELP THE CHAIRMAN DETERMINE THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE FIVE WEO CANDIDATES. HOWEVER, AT ALL COMMITTEE-LEVEL WEOG MEETINGS WE PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY. WE CHAIRED THE SIXTH COMMITTEE (LEGAL) WEOG MEETINGS. WITH GROWING ECJAO COHESIVENESS ON MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES WITH WHICH WE AND THE EC-9 ARE CONCERNED, THERE HAS BEEN A CERTAIN FIRING OF POSITIONS AGAINST LEFTIST TACKS TAKEN BY COUNTRIES SUCH AS SWEDEN AND MALTA. NOT SURPRISINGLY, AFTER THE DECISIVE SWEDISH VOTE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN FAVOR OF PLO PARTICIPATION, A NUMBER OF EC-9 PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES INFORMALLY SUGGESTED THAT SWEDEN MIGHT NOT CONTINUE TO DESERVE WEO SUPPORT. MALTA ALREADY HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM WEOG FIFTH AND SIXTH COMMITTEE MEETINGS. CONVERSELY, BOTH

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PAGE 04 USUN N 00134 02 OF 02 162054Z

THE EC-9 AND THE WEOG AS A WHOLE, SEEM TO FAVOR CLOSER US PARTICIPATION AND THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF OUR POSITIONS AND VIEWS ON AREAS OF MUTUAL IMPORTANCE. WE SHOULD POINT OUT, THOUGH, THAT CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US., THE EC-9 AND THE WEOG WOULD ENTAIL CERTAIN DANGERS. AS THE EC-9 BECOME MORE COHESIVE, THEY TEND TO CONSULT LESS WITH THE WEOG AS A WHOLE. FURTHERMORE, WITH THEIR POLICY OF CONSENSUS, THE EC-9'S LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR CAN SOMETIMES WEAKEN A SITUATION WHERE THE US. COULD COMMAND FULLER SUPPORT FROM SOME MEMBERS OF THE EC-9.

(B) DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS MALTA AND CUBA IN THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUPINGS, THE 22-MEMBER WEOG, AND THE 26-MEMBER LATIN AMERICAN GROUP PROVIDE THE PRINCIPAL WEIGHT OF UN SUPPORT FOR WESTERN DEMOCRATIC POSITIONS. IN 1976 THESE TWO GROUPS WILL PROBABLY REPRESENT LESS THAN 1/3 OF THE UN MEMBERSHIP WHICH NOW TOTALS 144 AND WHICH MAY WELL BE AUGMENTED BY NEW MEMBERS SUCH AS ANGOLA, THE AFARS AND ISSAS, AND THE SEYCHELLES. THUS IT BEHOOVES US TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP PARTICULARLY CLOSE TIES AND CONSULTATION WITH THE WEOG, MANY OF WHOSE MEMBERS CAN HELP INFLUENCE FAVORABLY SIGNIFICANT THIRD AND FOURTH WORLD ELEMENTS. FURTHERMORE, INCREASED CONSULTATIONS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL OF NATO COMBINED WITH THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF KEY ISSUES SHOULD IMPROVE THE NATO PERFORMANCES ON UN ISSUES AND HOPEFULLY WILL PROVIDE MORE WEO SUPPORT FOR US INTERESTS.

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